



Ads by

Fabri
Low I
on Po
Ribbon
All In
www.I

Awar
Comp
you c
Brea
and n
www.I

Bartleby.com
Great Books Online

Reference Verse Fiction Nonfiction

Search Dictionary Go

Home Subjects Titles Authors Encyclopedia Dictionary Thesaurus Quotations English Usage

Reference > American Heritage® > Dictionary

< [ribbing](#) [ribbonfish](#) >

[CONTENTS](#) · [INDEX](#) · [ILLUSTRATIONS](#) · [BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD](#)

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000.

ribbon

SYLLABICATION: rib·bon

PRONUNCIATION: rĭb'ən

NOUN: **1.** A narrow strip or band of fine fabric, such as satin or velvet, finished at the edges and used for trimming, tying, or finishing. **2a.** Something, such as a tape measure, that resembles a ribbon. **b.** A long thin strip: *a ribbon of land along the shore*. **3. ribbons** Tattered or ragged strips: *a dress torn to ribbons*. **4.** An inked strip of cloth used for making an impression, as in a typewriter. **5a.** A band of colored cloth signifying membership in an order or the award of a prize. **b.** A strip of colored cloth worn on the left breast of a uniform to indicate the award of a medal or decoration. **6. ribbons** *Informal* Reins for driving horses. **7.** See **ledger board** (sense 2).

TRANSITIVE Inflected forms: **rib·boned**, **rib·bon·ing**, **rib·bons**

VERB: **1.** To decorate or tie with ribbons. **2.** To tear into ribbons or shreds.

ETYMOLOGY: Middle English *ribban*, *riban*, from Old French *ruban*, probably of Germanic origin. See **bhendh-** in Appendix I.

OTHER FORMS: **rib'bon·y** —ADJECTIVE

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition. Copyright © 2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Published by the Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

[CONTENTS](#) · [INDEX](#) · [ILLUSTRATIONS](#) · [BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD](#)

< [ribbing](#) [ribbonfish](#) >

Google

Click [here](#) to shop the [Bartleby Bookstore](#).

[Welcome](#) · [Press](#) · [Advertising](#) · [Linking](#) · [Terms of Use](#) · © 2008 [Bartleby.com](#)



STOP the Identity Thief
Identity theft hits one in
four U.S. households



IdentityGuard
▶ GET PROTECTED